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Parents forced to quit over childcare costs

Tens of thousands of mothers are being forced out of low-paid jobs because they can no longer afford childcare (Anushka Asthana writes). Research suggests that bills for nursery care are pushing one in four families, of all income groups, into debt.

The study, by Save the Children and the Daycare Trust, found that a quarter of the lowest paid parents have given up work and a further third turned down a job because they could not afford the costs. On average, it costs £5,000 a year to have a child in nursery for 25 hours a week.

The Government is undermining its "make-work-pay" policy, Save the Children warned.

Gypsies want £6m to go

A travellers' leader has asked for £6 million so that families can move on from an illegal settlement at Dale Farm in Essex, Basildon Borough Council said. Richard Sheridan, of the Gypsy Council, has been fighting the eviction on September 19. The travellers own the site but do not have planning permission for buildings. The council said the proposed sum for buying the land was above its market value.

Man saves woman's life

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